## CLAIMS

1. A method for extracting component feature for face description, comprising:

processing a training mode operation, comprising;

analyzing a plurality of training face images;

calculating a first -order eigencomponent  $U^{\mbox{\tiny (1)}}$  using the analyzed training face images;

calculating a second -order eigencomponent  $U^{(2)}$  using the analyzed training face images; and

processing a test mode operation, comprising;

analyzing a test face image; and

obtaining a second -order component feature  $\mathit{W}^{(2)}$  for the test face image using the second -order eigencomponents  $\mathit{U}^{(2)}$ .

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2. A method for extracting component feature for face description, comprising:

processing a training mode operation, comprising;

analyzing a plurality of training face images to generate a first - order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face;

calculating a first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  using the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face;

analyzing the first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  to generate a second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face; and

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calculating a second -order eigencomponent  $U^{(2)}$  using the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face; and processing a test mode operation, comprising;

analyzing a test face image to generate a first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face;

obtaining a first -order component feature  $W^{(1)}$  for the test face image using the first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  and the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face;

analyzing the first -order component feature  $\mathit{W}^{(1)}$  to generate a second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face; and

obtaining a second -order component feature  $W^{(2)}$  for the test face image using the second -order eigencomponents  $U^{(2)}$  and the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face .

15 3. The method for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 2, wherein said analyzing a plurality of training face image comprises:

dividing each sample face image into facial parts to obtain facial components  $\Phi$ , of facial parts;

averaging the facial component of each facial parts to obtain a first -order average facial component  $\Psi$ ; and

subtracting the facial component by the first -order average facial component  $\Psi$  to produce the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face.

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4. The method for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 2, wherein said analyzing the first -order eigencomponent comprises:

obtaining a reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$ ; and

subtracting the reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$  from the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face to generate the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face.

- 5. The method for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 2, wherein said analyzing a test face image comprises:
- dividing the test face image into facial parts to obtain facial components  $\Phi_i$  of facial parts; and

subtracting the facial component  $\Phi_i$  by the first -order average facial component  $\Psi$  to produce the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face.

15 6. The method for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 2, wherein said analyzing a test face image comprises:

obtaining a reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$ ; and

subtracting the reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$  from the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face to generate the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face.

7. The method for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 3, wherein said facial components  $\Phi_i$  of facial parts of the training face images can be weighted.

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- 8. The method for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 5, wherein said facial components  $\Phi$ , of facial parts of the test face images can be weighted.
- 5 9. An apparatus for extracting component feature for face description, comprising:

an arrangement operable to processes a training mode operation, comprising;

an arrangment operable to analyze a plurality of training face images;

an arrangement operable to calculate a first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  using the analyzed training face images;

an arrangement operable to calculate a second -order eigencomponent  $U^{(2)}$  using the analyzed training face images; and

an arrangement operable to process a test mode operation, comprising;

an arrangement operable to analyze a test face image; and an arrangement operable to obtain a second -order component feature  $W^{(2)}$  for the test face image using the second -order eigencomponents  $U^{(2)}$ .

10. An apparatus for extracting component feature for face description, comprising:

an arrangement operable to process a training mode operation, comprising;

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an arrangement operable to analyze a plurality of training face images to generate a first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face;

an arrangement operable to calculate a first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  using the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face;

an arrangement operable to analyze the first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  to generate a second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face; and

an arrangement operable to calculate a second -order eigencomponent  $U^{(2)}$  using the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face; and

an arrangement operable to process a test mode operation, comprising;

an arrangement operable to analyze a test face image to generate a first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face;

an arrangement operable to obtain a first -order component feature  $W^{(1)}$  for the test face image using the first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  and the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face;

an arrangement operable to analyze the first -order component feature  $W^{(1)}$  to generate a second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face; and

an arrangement operable to obtain a second -order component feature  $W^{(2)}$  for the test face image using the second -order eigencomponents  $U^{(2)}$  and the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face .

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11. The apparatus for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 10, wherein said arrangement operable to analyze a plurality of training face images comprises:

an arrangement operable to divide each sample face image into facial parts to obtain facial components  $\Phi$ , of facial parts;

an arrangement operable to average the facial component of each facial parts to obtain a first -order average facial component  $\Psi$ ; and

an arrangement operable to subtract the facial component by the first - order average facial component  $\Psi$  to produce the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face.

12. The apparatus for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 10, wherein said arrangement operable to analyze the first -order eigencomponent comprises:

an arrangement operable to obtain a reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$ ; and an arrangement operable to subtract the reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$  from the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face to generate the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face.

13. The apparatus for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 10, wherein said arrangement operable to analyze a test face image comprises:

an arrangement operable to divid the test face image into facial parts to obtain facial components  $\Phi_i$  of facial parts; and

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an arrangement operable to subtract the facial component  $\Phi_i$  by the first -order average facial component  $\Psi$  to produce the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face.

5 14. The apparatus for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 10, wherein said arrangement operable to analyze a test face image comprises:

an arrangement operable to obtain a reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$ ; and an arrangement operable to subtract the reconstructed matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}^{(1)}$  from the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face to generate the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face.

15. The apparatus for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 11, wherein said facial components  $\Phi_i$  of facial parts of the training face images can be weighted.

16. The apparatus for extracting component feature as claimed in claim 12, wherein said facial components  $\Phi_i$  of facial parts of the test face images can be weighted.

20 17. An apparatus for extracting component feature for face description, comprising:

an arrangement operable to process a training mode operation, comprising;

an arrangement operable to analyze a plurality of training face images to generate a first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face;

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an arrangement operable to calculate a first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  using the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the training face;

an arrangement operable to analyze the first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  to generate a second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face; and

an arrangement operable to calculate a second -order eigencomponent  $U^{(2)}$  using the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the training face.

18. An apparatus for extracting component feature for face description, comprising:

a memory for storing a first order average facial component  $\Psi$ , a first order eigencomponents  $U^{(1)}$ , an inverse matrix  $U^{(1)+}$ , and a second order eigencomponent  $U^{(2)}$ ; and

an arrangement operable to process a test mode operation, comprising;

an arrangement operable to analyze a test face image to generate a first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face;

an arrangement operable to obtain a first -order component feature  $W^{(1)}$  for the test face image using the first -order eigencomponent  $U^{(1)}$  and the first -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(1)}$  of the test face;

an arrangement operable to analyze the first -order component feature  $W^{(1)}$  to generate a second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face; and

an arrangement operable to obtain a second -order component feature  $W^{(2)}$  for the test face image using the second -order eigencomponents  $U^{(2)}$  and the second -order residue component  $\Gamma^{(2)}$  of the test face .